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P A P E R S
I N
COLONIES AND TRADE.

THANKS were returned to DR. DANCER for the following communications, relative to the growth of Cinnamon in Jamaica, and other subjects mentioned therein, which have been recommended to his attention by the Society, particularly with respect to obtaining a kind of Barilla or Kelp, from some of the maritime plants of that Island, which may hereafter prove a valuable article of importation.

S I R,

I AM just favoured with your letter of the 19th of January, by the Jupiter, and cannot omit the opportunity which
offers

204 COLONIES AND TRADE.

offers, by Mr. Nepean (who fails in a few days), of thanking you for the same, and of answering to some few particulars, so far as am able; but I shall hereafter write you more fully on the same subject.

It gives me sensible pleasure, to find the opinion of the Society, respecting our Cinnamon, confirmed by Commercial Gentlemen engaged in that branch of trade.* this will have more influence on the minds of people in this Colony, in exerting their attention to so important an object, than the decision of men of science, to which they pay little deference.

Notwithstanding the careful and repeated investigation the Cinnamon of this Island has undergone, some persons assert, that it is not the true Ceylon Cinnamon, but the Cassia. I think it unnecessary to
answer

* See Volume X. p. 256.

COLONIES AND TRADE. 205

answer them, because I am fully satisfied that, unless every account given of the different species, or varieties, is erroneous, ours is the real *Rasse Coronde*, or best sort. This I am more confirmed in, by the extract the Committee of the Society has been pleased to favour me with: and though soil and climate may occasion some slight difference in the colour and grain of the bark, the aroma is exactly the same, and of equal, if not superior, strength; so that I have no doubt of its meeting with a market, when we are able to send it. While measures are taken on every side to injure the staple trade of this island, we must think ourselves highly indebted to the Society, for recommending and encouraging, by premiums, the cultivation and introduction of such articles as may open a new source of trade and wealth.

After despairing for a long time, a few plants of the Ché, or *Oldenlandia Umbellata*, (See Vol. X. p. 259) made their appearance

206 COLONIES AND TRADE.

pearance, and I have had a second crop. I shall enclose you a small packet of seed.

I observe what you say about preparing alkaline salts from our marine plants; I have already made some trials with the *Betis Maritima*, employed by the Spaniards at Carthagená for that purpose; but I have not had sufficient leisure to prosecute the business. I hope, in my next, to give you more satisfactory intelligence on this and some other matters.

I have, for some time past, had the *Acasia* (or *Mimosa*)*, of which you sent me seeds, growing in the Botanic Garden. It was obtained from Sir Joseph Banks, about four years ago, and has many of the characters of the *nilotica*, or gum arabic tree, but has never produced any gum; whilst another tree, which is very defective in its character, has produced very fine gum.

I am

* Brought from Egypt by Mr. Boyleston.

COLONIES AND TRADE. 207

I am printing (for the first time), by order of the House of Assembly, a catalogue of our garden, a copy of which, when published, I shall send to you, and beg leave to solicit the continuance of your contributions.

I have of late been occupied in collecting plants for his Majesty's Garden at Kew, for Sir Joseph Banks, and some other Gentlemen, which has diverted my attention from other pursuits; but that business being completed, I shall have in view the consideration of what you recommend.

I remain very respectfully,

S I R,

Your obedient humble servant,

THOMAS DANCER.

Mr. MORE.

SIR,

S I R,

I WROTE to you some time ago to acknowledge the receipt of your favour. The Ché, or Oldenlandia Umbellata, with which you obliged me, succeeds wonderfully well, and I have sent a small parcel of the root for trial. I have not Dr. Anderson's process by me; but I find that, in decoction with an alkali, it yields a deep red colour.

The *Bafilla Rubra* likewise, another East-India dye, flourishes; but I am not yet acquainted with the mode of fixing the beautiful colour it gives. In the course of my different journeys, whilst collecting plants for Kew Garden, I collected a great many Lichens; but, on trial, I found none of them to be compared with the
Lichen

COLONIES AND TRADE. 209

Lichen Rocella, from the Canary Islands, which you sent me.

The *Betis Maritima*, which grows in the greatest abundance in all the salinas of this Island, has been long employed by the Spaniards, in South America, in the making of glass, (Vide Jacquin, *Stirpes Americanæ*.) I will endeavour to send you home some specimens of Kelp, prepared from this and some other marine plants. I now come to say a word or two more on the subject of Cinnamon. The Jamaica Cinnamon exceeds, in the opinion of every one, the specimens of Ceylon Cinnamon, sent me by Mr. Travers; but many persons think those specimens very bad. I am happy, however, to inform you, that the attention paid by the Society to this interesting subject, has had the desired effect, of awakening the public of this Island to a sense of its importance. It is probable that a bill will be brought in, during the next Session of

P

Assembly,

Assembly, to encourage, by offer of liberal premiums, the cultivation of this and the other spices; but the intention of the Legislative Gentlemen is already, in some degree, anticipated; for several Gentlemen are going largely into the planting of Cinnamon: I have it on good authority, that one Gentleman has already set out fifty thousand trees.

I have lately, by order of the House of Assembly, published the catalogue of our garden, a copy of which I beg very respectfully to present to the Society, and send another copy for your own acceptance. Knowing our stock, you will be at no loss to understand what will be acceptable; and I shall always be grateful for any contributions you can procure for this infant establishment, which I have found so much difficulty in supporting.

The

COLONIES AND TRADE. 211

The Ché roots, with the catalogues,
you will receive by the ship Beckford,
Captain Ayton, addressed to the care of
Mr. Vaughan.

I remain, S I R,

With sentiments of esteem,

Your very humble servant,

THOMAS DANCER.

Botanic Garden, Jamaica,
July 24, 1792.

MR. MORE.

THE SILVER MEDAL was this year voted to Mrs. ANSTEY, from whom the following letters were received, and to whom the introduction of the Cinnamon-Tree, into the British Settlement at Madras, was owing. For, in the former war with Hyder Ally, when Mrs. ANSTEY (whose name at that time was *Light*) took refuge in the Island of Ceylon, she obtained from the Dutch two young Cinnamon Trees, which, on her return to Madras, she conveyed thither, and from which all the trees of that kind, at and in the neighbourhood of that Settlement, have been produced.

S I R,

I LITTLE thought to have been the first to have conveyed you those samples of Cinnamon you required, which
I had

COLONIES AND TRADE. 213

I had written for from England ; and my directions, as you will see, have been punctually observed. The accompanying specimens, my friend, Mr. Torin, has lately sent to me, at this place, in order that they might be forwarded to me in England, without an idea of my being on the spot to receive them.*

I had the satisfaction of hearing, immediately on my arrival at Madras, the very successful progress of my Cinnamon Plantation, which Mr. Torin's and Mr. Marten's letters will more fully ascertain, as will also Dr. Anderson's publication, which I likewise enclose to you, not only on account of my name being mentioned, but also to shew you there are people in the East, who are eager to promote, in different forms, what might enrich our Eastern possessions in particular, and Society in general ; and who neither spare expence or labour of body or mind, for the encouragement of Arts.

P 3

Besides

* These specimens are reserved in the Society's collection.

214 COLONIES AND TRADE.

Besides the specimens I have lately received from the Southward, I send you several little branches of a tree, growing in Dr. Anderson's garden, under the care of Dr. Berry, at Marmalong, about seven miles from Fort St. George, which I have visited, and found in a very flourishing state, about four years old, grown from seed of the parent tree I brought myself from Columbo, and has been upwards of two years at Madras. The bark, when I tasted it a few days ago, had a very strong and fine flavour; it has not yet blossomed, nor is it at present in a state to yield any bark as samples.

I had a very fortunate passage, being only three months and ten days, from the time of our losing sight of Old England, which was on the 6th of May: I embarked the 1st, at eleven at night, and was in the Roads of Madras the 15th of August, at noon.

You

COLONIES AND TRADE. 215

You will find, by the enclosed letters, there is little doubt but that our Settlement on the Coromandel Coast will prove as great a mart to the English Company, for the Cinnamon Trade, in a few years, as ever Ceylon has proved to the Dutch.

I am, S I R,

Your much obliged,

And obedient servant,

L. ANSTEY.

Madras,
Sept. 17, 1791.

Mr. MORE.

*Copy of part of a Letter from Mr. TORIN
to Mrs. ANSTEY, dated Tinnevely,
July 10, 1791.*

DEAR MADAM,

MR. Kindersley has lately sent me your letter, relative to the specimens and other testimony you wish to

P 4

procure

216 COLONIES AND TRADE.

procure of the Cinnamon ; and I readily undertake to furnish you with the proofs you require, happy in this proper occasion to shew my sense of the many civilities I experienced from your family at Palamcotah.

As I am no longer paymaster, or in charge of the garden, I am obliged to proceed, with the assistance of Mr. Marten, who has promised to support your claims on the public, upon this score, with all the information you require, and the subject will admit ; and the great care he takes of the plantation, leaves us little doubt but you will derive every advantage from its prosperity.

As soon as I heard of the views you entertained from its public utility, I caused some plants to be moved to a more favourable soil, under the hills, and near to the water-fall at Tankanshy ; recommending at the same time to Government, to order a
piece

COLONIES AND TRADE. 217

piece of ground to be enclosed, and appropriated to the purpose, by a grant from the Nabob.

All the questions you have put, and the specimens you require, will be answered and prepared in time for the ships before October, except that of the blossom, which we must send you next season. In the year 1790, I reared upwards of two thousand plants ; and, as they have survived a twelvemonth, and are mostly of the first sort, there is little doubt of their succeeding.

DEAR MADAM,

PREVIOUS to the receipt of your favour of the 30th of March, I had the honour to address you relative to the Cinnamon ; and, in consequence of a letter from Mr. Kinderley, I have now the pleasure to send you specimens of the trees, of which the Paymaster has at least five thousand

218 COLONIES AND TRADE.

send young plants in his garden : these are sent to you, to guard against accident that may happen to those publicly transmitted to the Court of Directors.

We have not yet acquired the art of taking off the bark, and separating it from the outer rind. In a few weeks we hope to accomplish this ; and you shall then receive further samples of it. There can be no manner of doubt, I think, of the increasing prosperity of the plantation, now the Government have given it their countenance.

I lately visited my plantation under the hills, and found it thriving surprisingly well. You need be under no apprehension whatever with respect to the quality of the parent tree, as I have received the opinion even of some Dutch gentlemen upon it; nor do I apprehend that the plant will degenerate : they grow from seed, and from layers, and only require the shade of other trees for the first twelvemonth. The few experiments from cuttings did not succeed ; but we will try again.

I must

COLONIES AND TRADE. 219

I must not forget to remark, that these samples are seen under a great disadvantage, as we have learnt that the finest Cinnamon is produced from the young scions which shoot up from the root after the tree has been cut down : this is a part of the process we have not yet arrived at ; but it will be attempted this season.

Mr. Marten bestows every possible care on the culture, and will think his labours very well rewarded, if it should prove beneficial to you ; to whom, we all allow, the Company and the Public will be solely indebted for whatever advantages may result from the plantations.

I remain, DEAR MADAM,

Your very obedient servant,

B. TORIN.

Tinnevely,
Aug. 24, 1791.

Mrs. ANSTEY.

SIR,

S I R,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the several orders of Government through you.

I have the pleasure to acquaint Government, that the ground allotted as a Cinnamon plantation is already enclosed, and the fields are now preparing for the reception of the plants, which I shall not attempt to move until the land-winds are over, and the cool season commenced. Of the seed which I have sown since my last address upon this subject, of the first sort (for I have reason to think it the superior species of Cinnamon found on Ceylon), to the number of four thousand, several have made their appearance: those of the second sort, which I have put into the ground, are innumerable; and I do not think myself

too sanguine in the expectation of stocking the plantation this year.

I have attempted, in compliance with Government's directions, to take off, and prepare, the Cinnamon samples, which I now send ; but, in justice to Mrs. Anstey, who first brought this valuable spice into our possessions, I must remark, that these samples are submitted to inspection under every possible disadvantage. In the first place, I am not thoroughly convinced that the modes I have adopted for separating and drying the barks, are proper, though correct with every information I have been able to obtain. The former is performed (after exposing the shoots about half an hour in the sun, that the juice may be less liable to escape) by cutting two opposite longitudinal slips through the bark, and striking them with a round smooth stick, which immediately separates the Cinnamon from the wood. Secondly, I understand the Dutch cut down their trees when three
years

222 COLONIES AND TRADE.

years old ; and that their best Cinnamon is taken from the shoots striking from the remaining stump, at the time when they are most luxuriant in sap. This experiment I intend trying in October upon some trees of the second sort, which are of the proper age. I have none of a superior quality above twelve months growth ; but Government must be convinced of the disadvantage under which these samples appear, when they are informed, that they are taken from old trees, in their original state, at this (the driest) season of the year, and when their juices are expended in their fruit.

Dr. Anderson, I understand, wishes me to superintend the mulberry cultivation in these districts—an experiment that I will readily undertake; and, as it will be necessary to have some shelter for the young Cinnamon plants, I purpose intersecting each row of Cinnamon with a hedge of mulberry, which will answer equally well as any other shade, and will be trying two experiments
under

COLONIES AND TRADE. 223

under one expence. The mulberry is not uncommon to this country.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. MARTEN.

*Palamcottah,
July 10, 1791.*

W. COLLINS JACKSON,
Esq. Secretary to the
Military and Secret
Department, Fort St.
George, Madras.